

Artifacts On Mars

by R. H. Ayana

In December 1984 I spoke with Dr James Hurtak, who was touring the world with NASA-documented evidence for monumental artifacts - pyramids, a giant sculpted face and others - on the surface of Mars. The face and other structures were subjected to intense scrutiny and years of computer image-enhancement after they were first taken by Mariner and Viking probes in the 1970s. New analysis of the Viking photographs prompts us to report what may be the unrecognised story of the century...

A large amount of evidence now indicates that strange objects have been photographed on Mars by planetary probes. A Boston scientist has analysed an object on the surface of Mars which resembles a huge human-like face looking into space, and reported last July that it is part of a series of what may well be monumental artifacts.

Mark J. Carlotto, a from Boston-based Analytic Sciences, has analysed photographs of the face or 'Martian Sphinx' - which were shot by the U.S. Viking Orbiter 1 Mars probe in June 1976 - with computerised image-processing techniques.

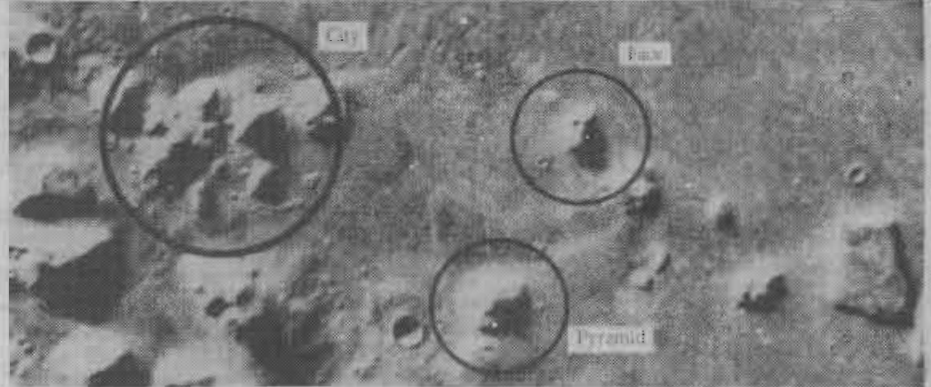
Mr. Carlotto used two methods to analyse the images - analysis of shadows and a projection technique called "shape from shading" which reconstructed the three-dimensional profile of the structure. He also enhanced images of nearby pyramidal features called "the city" which have an unusually regular geometric shape.

Mr Carlotto fed a three-dimensional profile of the structure into a computer which worked out what it would look like from various angles. He found subtle features on the shaded side of the face with a new technique called *local contrast enhancement*;

"The image enhancement results indicate that a second eye socket may be present on the right, shadowed side of the face; fine structure in the mouth suggests teeth are apparent," Mr. Carlotto reported. The "impression of facial features is not a transient phenomenon" but a real object.

The eyes are about 100 metres lower in height than the nose and appear convex. He says that "results to date suggest that they may not be natural".

The original resolution of the Viking camera - 150 metres per pixel, or unit of visual information - has been improved by enhancement to a scale no larger than a small car. We can now take a closer look at massive pyramidal structures on the Martian surface, some a kilometre high.



Evidence Emerges

The 'Sphinx' has been investigated for a decade, but was first dismissed as a trick of the light and gained little recognition from the scientific community. It was originally noted in Viking photograph 70A11 by two researchers from the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland, Vincent DiPietro and Greg Molennar, in 1979.

Suffering early ridicule, they devised a new copyrighted method for increasing the resolution of digital images called *Starburst Pixel Interleaving Technique* (SPIT), which showed clearly-visible eye sockets and an eyeball in the planetary orbiter photographs. They concluded that the "Face on Mars" doesn't seem the product of "totally natural forces. Further investigation seems warranted." But despite the fact that their enhancement techniques were identical to those performed on other NASA photographs, they were further shunned by the scientific community.

Their work was disseminated to the media in 1984. The media didn't know what to do with the story and failed to cover it adequately; but the two researchers are now backed by Dr David C. Webb, PHD, a member of the President's Commission on Space, anthropologist Dr Rafael Pozos, Richard Hoagland (science adviser to Walter Cronkite and deviser of the Pioneer 10 information plaque) and many other scientists and engineers.

Mariners & Vikings

Launched in August 1975, Viking 1 was put into Mars synchronous elliptical orbit to find a safe landing site for Viking-Lander 1. While the latter came down at Kusei-Planetiomom on the 7th anniversary of the first manned lunar landing in June 1976, the Viking Orbiter 1 began to take pictures of the Martian landscape. Along with Orbiter 2, over 54,000 pictures were taken.

Prior to the Viking Orbiter, several Mariner satellites were launched to map the entire Martian surface. One of the Mariner 9 fly-by photographs of the Aleutian Quadrangle in the north-east quadrant of Mars showed a regular arrangement of pyramidal formations.

Mariner 9 fly-bys during February and August 1972 showed distinct pyramidal structures whose angles were clearly defined by reflected light from the Sun. The second fly-by took pictures from a different direction and light angle, eliminating the possibility that the pyramidal shapes were formed by shadow patterns.

These objects are pyramids arranged in a specific pattern, showing a regularity unknown to exist in any natural formation. In the early 1970s, Dr James Hurtak (of the Los Gatos Academy of Future Science) suggested a closer look at the Mariner 9 B-frames DAS 0779453 and DAS 12985AA2, which showed a perfect set of tetrahedron pyramidal structures.

Later Viking photographs (and other Mariner shots) confirm the presence of the objects. Many shots show the formations under radically different light conditions.

The Martian Sphinx

The Sphinx, major pyramids and a right-angle walled 'fortress' are in the Cydonia region of Mars, along the shore of what appears to be an ancient sea or lake. The 'Sphinx' is more than 1,500 metres long, with a height reaching about 550 metres.

Early arguments suggested that the facial symmetry was due to wind formations. But a startling perfection of geometric balance subsequently emerged; particularly human features and facial proportions, architectural symmetry and 'artificial' relation to surrounding structures.

The perfection of symmetry is not visible to the unaided eye or in these photographs (which were taken from altitudes of between 1,000 and 5,000 km), but emerge only after computer enhancement. The Face's brow ridges and nose show detailed alignments with human structure and perfect mouth, teeth, chin and eyes are formed. An iris and lens-like effect resembling a pupil was found in the convex eyes. **The sides of the face show only 2% variance across the entire structure.**

Under the face is what appears to be a supporting platform. **If the face wasn't there we'd still see four sets of parallel lines circumscribing four sloped areas of equal sides. These four equal sides are at perfect right angles to each other, forming a symmetrical rectangle. These features alone indicate a piece of purposefully designed architecture.**

According to Nobel Prize winner Jacques Couillard in his book *Chance and Necessity*: "Natural objects never present edges, right angles and exact symmetries; whereas man-made formalities will ordinarily show such features."

Other artifacts revealed by the probes form perfectly straight walls and right-angles, including three major and one minor pyramid formations near the Face.

According to (Col) Jim Shannon, a Pentagon artist with anthropological training, there "is overwhelming evidence that the structure revealed in the photographs... is a consciously created monument typical of the archaeology left to us by our predecessors."

The Pyres Amid

Near the face are two tetrahedral pyramids - one of these is in perfect condition, with ALL sides showing equal length, capable of being inscribed within a perfect circle. This pyramid sits in the centre of a complex of larger and smaller objects showing distinctly *non-random* arrangement - but all are in apparent ruin.

The 'pyramid city' is a collection of large and small features spread over a rectangle of 5 by 8 miles. The 'city' includes a monumental formation showing perfect cutaway right-angle walls. Within the pyramid complex is an unusual area showing a regular room-like honeycomb stretching for a mile. Its relationship to the nearby (8 miles) 'Sphinx' is a geometric crescent arrangement and the face appears in perfect profile from the 'city'. They lie in a narrow band at 41° North, 9.5° West.

Many unusual objects are arrayed in perfectly straight lines at regular intervals extending for miles. **Running from the 'fortress' in a perfectly straight line are four near-identical pyramid-shaped objects spaced exactly six miles apart.**

The tetrahedral pyramids range in base diameter from 3 to 6 kms and are up to 1,000 metres in height, showing a precise symmetry too unique to be natural. Several of the pyramids are on the lips of large craters.

"If we can simply prove that one stone was placed next to another stone in a non-natural way - the whole game of life is changed," says Dr James Hurtak, author of a book on the Martian artifacts.

The tests for life on the Martian surface performed by Viking Landers 1 & 2 did not rule out the possibility of earlier life, according to many scientists. None of the biological experiments - the labeled release experiments, the gas-exchange experiment or the prolytic-release experiment - proved conclusively that life does not exist on Mars even today!

We now know that the reddish colour of Mars is due to large concentrations of iron oxides in the soil - which shows there must once have been fairly high levels of oxygen in the Martian atmosphere.

According to a 1985 report by 83 scientists gathered at NASA's Ames Research Centre, there is satellite evidence that ice, snow, flowing rivers and vast lakes played a major role in shaping the Martian climate and surface. **Large areas of flooding indicated geologically-recent flowing fresh water near the equator.** There is evidence that water ice exists half a mile below the



Martian surface, extending far outside polar latitudes. Water ice at the poles is exposed each summer when its surface layer of CO₂ evaporates; the north pole is now known to be comprised almost entirely of water. Clays and minerals found in the Martian soil by Viking Lander 1's Inorganic Chemical analysis could only have formed in the presence of liquid water.

There is also evidence of a geologically recent Martian 'climate catastrophe' in the Martian soil's chemical composition. One of NASA's Ames group suggested that a large object collided with Mars and blew much of the atmosphere into space, creating the immense Argyre basin.

Riddle of the Sphinx

"The challenge of the face on Mars is not unlike the riddle of the ancient Sphinx," according to Dr Rafael Pozos. "What is it that crawls on four legs in the morning, walks on two at midday, and walks on three in the evening?... To answer the riddle correctly a basic knowledge of our species is necessary. Humans crawl on all fours before they learn to walk on two legs and often need the support of a cane or third leg in old age.

"The ancient hero answers the riddle of the sphinx with one word, *anthropos*, humanity..."

"In many ways the face on Mars is a present day Sphinx... The only problem is that this face is on our neighbouring planet," Dr Pozos writes in his book *The Face On Mars - Evidence for a Lost Civilization?* (1986)

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Legendary Links

"As humans we are startled by a 'human' face on an alien planet," writes Dr Pozos.

"Threatened by the self-extinction of our species we are further intrigued and alarmed by the discovery of these land-forms on a planet identified with the god of war in the codex of archetypes underlying many of the myth systems created by our species. There is evidence of 'cratering' disproportionate to the surrounding terrain... We perceive pyramidal shapes which evoke the largest monumental structures known on our planet which were associated with highly developed forms of intelligence on our own planet but which are still shrouded in mystery."

The isotopes Iodine 129, Xenon 129, Carbon 15 and others, which were found in unusually high concentrations in the soil of Mars by the Viking-Lander, indicate some sort of 'nuclear event' may have taken place in the past. This may also have resulted from massive plasma discharges and/or meteoric bombardment. But ancient legends of 'war' in heaven may be ethno-centric and erroneous; even mating can seem violent to a child.

"The face on Mars could be either the tombstone of a dying civilization or the stepping stone to a higher civilization in space," says Dr Hurtak.

Earth Links

Dr James Hurtak has made extensive personal investigation of pyramid sites across the world over the last decade and a half. He was one of few scientists invited to investigate recently-discovered pyramids in the Brazilian forests and is a Professor of Anthropology and Oriental Studies.

Dr Hurtak organized a team, aided by former president Sadat of Egypt, which brought lasers to Gizeh to check the alignments of the pyramids. Hurtak points out that the ancient Arabic for Gizeh and the Cairo area was "El Kahire", which means *Those of Mars*. The team found relationships evident between the Great Pyramid and the pyramidal formations on Mars; the Alpha angles (the relationship of the apex to the base) and the circumference arc showed extraordinary correspondence that "defies happenstance creation".

He claims there are also mythic connections between the planet Mars and pyramids found in the Xingian Province of China and pyramids built in Peru, as well as in Mexico and Egypt.

"We have found in Ticul 12 major



photo courtesy M.J. Carlotto/TASC

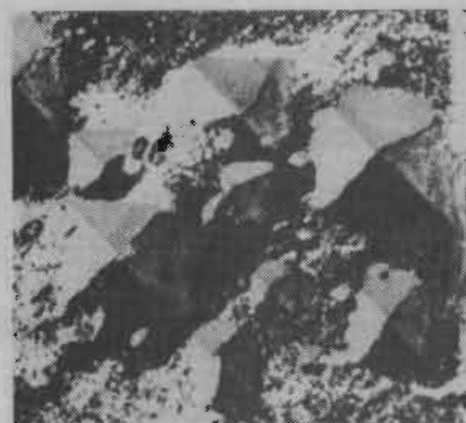
pyramids also showing alignments with (those on) Mars in their design and mathematics. In Western Brazil and Ecuador my colleagues and I were able to enter one of the labyrinthine systems connected with one of the pyramidal zones. We found that the pyramids were uniquely connected by underground passageways that ran for hundreds of kilometres...

"A few years ago, two colleagues of mine had the opportunity to probe off the west coast of Florida with the late Wernher Von Braun, where they discovered three pyramids on the ocean floor. My colleagues returned with verification; clear-water photographs of the structures. There on the ocean floor was a geometry we now associate with Mars - three pyramids or stars in a triangle." These Caribbean pyramids have been documented by other researchers and US sonar surveys.

Mars Missions

In December 1984, as clear photographs first appeared, the Soviets announced their current unmanned *Phobos* Mars mission.

In January 1985, NASA's budget requests included funding for a Mars Observer to be launched in August 1990.



At the Moscow summit last May, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev asked President Ronald Reagan to approve a joint unmanned flight to Mars as a symbol of super-power co-operation.

"Let us co-operate to master the cosmos, to fulfil big programmes... worthy of the Soviet and American peoples."

Back in December 1984, Dr Hurtak made the same suggestion;

"Although I do not believe that any similar life-forms presently exist on the planet Mars, I do feel there is a possibility that there was a previous civilization that may have existed on the planet before climatic change..."

"Mars should be seen as a platform for mutual teamwork that can unite our two countries and all the countries of our planet. The knowledge revealed by even an unmanned expedition to Mars would be non-political and could reduce the "Star Wars" scenario.

"Confirmations of these unique landscape formations could even lead to global understanding on Earth... our next choice in our priorities for encountering Mars is not one so much of technology, but that of consciousness-sharing.

"Having outlived our myths we will become new citizens of the universe." ▲

Linguistic Clues

Dr Hurtak's researches have taken him into the realms of linguistic clues hidden in our myths.

"It is remarkable that in the ancient cuneiform, Sumerian and Oriental languages there is a syllable with the consonant value M-R, which is found everywhere in connection with the planet Mars and its associated emblem, the dragon. The source of all these words is to be found in the Semitic root 'Mara' (written M*R) which in Hebrew means 'bitterness'. In the cuneiform text you see these wedge-like forms with three stars. From this root is derived the word for rebellion which is the original name of Nimrod (Nin Mer Rood N*M*R - 'Reddish' builder of the Tower of Babel) as well as Marduk (The Babylonian Creator).

In Greek tradition and the Semitic of the Near East, the people of Atlantis were called *Merodes*, descendants of Meru or Merod. The Nubians told of an island called Meru, where pyramids were built by a race of red men. This legend came to the Hindus as Mount Meru (or M*R), a five-sided mountain from which the heavens were suspended with the Pole Star at its apex. This is why many Asian temples are built as a mountain with a flame at the summit.

"Tibetan legend tells of the fall of a land of seven cities by earthquakes and eruptions at the fall of the star Bel or Mars..."

A land of seven cities was ruled over from Mt Meru by the Hindu rain god Indra.

Other examples are too numerous to list here.